Miraculous Newes.

At London,
Printed for *John Barnes*, dwelling in Hosier Lane. 1616.

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Miraculous Newes,

From the Cittie of

Holdt, in the Lord-ſhip of *Munſter* (in Germany) the twentieth of September laſt paſt. 1616.

WHERE THERE WERE PLAINly beheld three dead bodyes riſe out of their Graues, admoniſhing the people of Iudgements to come.

Faithfully Tranſlated according to the firſt Coppy, printed at *Colen*: and afterwards at *Antwerpe*, by *Pouwels Strobant*: With the names of diuers worthy Perſons and Burgimaſters of the ſame Citty, who were eye-witneſſes of this fearefull Accident.

{ *Iohan Barbeeck*, *Melchior Hans Guert van Boecholt Schepenen.* } { *Sybrant Wyndels*, *Pieter van Dorſten*, *Michaell Staets, Schepenen.* }

Publiſhed with Licence.

Luke 16.31.

Although one ſhould riſe from the graue, they would not be perſwaded.

LONDON:
Printed for *Iohn Barnes*, dwelling in *Hoſier*-lane, neere Smithfield. 1616.

Miraculous News,

From the Citie of

Holdt, in the Lord ship of *Munster* (in Germany) the twentieth of September last past. 1616.

WHERE THERE WERE PLAINly beheld three dead bodyes rise out of their Graues, admonishing the people of Iudgements to come.

Faithfully Translated according to the first Coppy, printed at [illegible] afterwards at *Antwerpe*, by *Pouwels* [illegible] with the names of diuers worthy Po[illegible] gimasters of the same Clety, w[illegible] witnesses of this fearefull Accident.

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Johan Bardecke.
Melchior Hans Geert van Boecholt Schepenen.
Sybrant Wyndels.
Pieter van Dusten.
Michael Staets, Schepenen.

Published with Licence.

Luke 16. 31.

Although one should rise from the graue, they would not be perswaded.

LONDON:
Printed for *John Bardwelling* in *Hoser*-lane, neere Smith field. 1616.

To the Reader.

THE quality of theſe times (wherin obduration of hearts hath begotten proud contempt of Gods iudgements, and deſperate ſcorne againſt the higheſt Maieſty) might haue giuen iuſt reaſon of concealing this newes; ſeeing the venome of that old Serpent hath ſo impoiſoned all ſorts of men, that we are become deafe adders, too cunning for the moſt skilfull charmers: yet (if to none other effect) at leſt to moue ſome very few, whoſe hearts the holy ſpirit will touch; and to aggrauate the condemnation of the wretched multitude of ſcorners (into whoſe minds he cannot enter, forecloſed with pride and contempt) It ſeemed worth the labour to diuulge theſe fearefull and miraculous to-

kens or forewarnings, newly ſeene in a Country forraine to ours, but more neerly concerning our caſe; being by reaſon of our demerits in the higheſt degree of all tranſcendent enormities, to expect ſuddaine iudgements, euen (in the Lords vpright iuſtice) without all Præmonition; as hauing deſpiſed ſo many, ſo great, ſo terrible warnings; and hauing forgotten, and ſtill forgetting ſo late, nay ſo quotidian blesſings & deliuerances. So as neither good nor euill, paſt nor to come can any whit preuaile to awaken vs. This one ſhall be added to the heape of thoſe infinite mercies wherewith he daily ſtriueth to conquer Sathan in vs, and vs in our ſelues, whiles wee fight vnder his banner, againſt our owne ſafety in this life, and ſaluation in the future. His be the glory, ours the ſhame, horror and confuſion if we perſiſt obſtinate.

BRITISH MUSEUM

T. F.

The Report.

THe Almighty Creator of all thinges, incomprehensible in Greatnes, irresistible in Power: yet is so infinit in mercy and loue, that (notwithstanding our great sinnes, and our irreuocable obstinacie, yet) he seldome inflicteth condigne plagues or punishmentes on vs, without either presages, predictions, prodigies, or other miraculous & extraordinary premonitions: Whereby he would recall

vs

vs from our sinnes, and put vs in mind, both of other his Judgements; and aboue all, of that generall assize, whereof our Lord Jesus Christ, Mathew twenty foure forewarneth: Namely that before his comming hee will foreshew in the Cloudes that euery one shall bee rewarded, according vnto his workes, and that wee shall heare great rumours of Warrs, Pestilence, Dearth, &c. Which as we daily beholde, commeth to passe in all Countries.

Neuertheleſſe how many signes and plagues soeuer the Lord our mercifull God sheweth and sendeth; yet We runne further and further continually into sinne, and contempt (the greatest sinne of all) of his gentle forewarninges.

Wherefore the Lord is greatly offended and incensed against vs, shaking his rodde or rather drawing his sword against vs; as Was manifested of late in the liberty of Munster, and

Citty

Citty of Holdt, two houres iourney from Dinslaken, fiue from Wesell, foure from Hessen; Where the Lord shewed his angry and terrible countenance in the sight of the people: First in most dreadfull Thunder, and Lightning, so great that the beholders neuer hauing seene the like, were stricken with so great amazement, that they feared the subuersion of the whole earth and heauens; so great that the people dwelling without the Citty in the scattering houses and Villages, came running towardes the Citty with intent to put too their helping handes to quench the fire in the citty, which seemed to them to bee inflamed in all the foure corners & other quarters thereof: But comming neere they found no one house burned, or other building (through the diuine mercy) demolished or deminished. This tempest happened the twentieth day of September. 1616.

When this great tempest of Thunder and Lightning was ceased; there was heard throughout all partes and places of the Citty, a most hedious and dolefull clamour or out-cry, striking terror into all the people; yet no man could perceiue whence it came, or where this clamour should bee: The people came ouer all the Citty after the noise, but could not finde it: for when they were at one corner of the citty they then heard it at another, and when they were come to that other corner, then it seemed to them to be in the middle of the citty; and to them that were in the middest, it seemed farther off: So that all heard it, but none could finde where it was, or from whence it came.

At length the people assembling in the Church-yard, beheld there so strange and incredible Iudgementes sent by the Lord, that for the most part the beholders fell flatt on their faces

faces to the ground, crying loude vnto the Lord for mercy: For there they beheld comming out of their graues three most ghostly and fearefull dead Bodyes.

1.

Whereof the first that was seene to arise out of the earth, seemed very white, cleane, and cleere: Who opening his mouth and beating his handes together spake thus: Blessed be God in the highest Heauen, that our releasement is come, for wee haue wayted many a hundred yeare for this time. The people hearing this, fell vpon their knees, and prayed vnto the Lord with weeping and great lamentation, saying: O Lord beholde vs with thy mercifull eyes, and let vs not be ouerwhelmed or smothered in our sinnes.

2.

The second dead man that arose

out of the earth, caused farre greater feare and trembling then the former, for the beholders saw him altogether from the toppe to the toe, like vnto a burning fire, his body all on a flame, the haire on his head standing vpright all on fire: Hee likewise opened his mouth, and wringing his handes and tearing his haire, cryed with a loude voyce: Repent yee, Repent yee: Almighty God hath taken his chastising rodde in hand, to punish the people for their sinnes, for their great wealth, for their great talke, or presumptious wordes, for their pompe, and for their pride: The which the Lord will no longer suffer nor endure, for the cry and complaint of these sinnes is ascended vp into his eares; Wherefore hee will destroy you with a suddaine Sickneſſe, and fiery Pestilence, so that you shall not haue so much time as one houre, to vtter one worde to call vpon God.

3

After this fiery apparition, and threat-

threatening speech ended, there appeared likewise rising out of the graue a third dead man, grinding and gnashing his teeth together, striking his handes the one against the other, and crying with a most fearefull and hideous voyce, insomuch that it seemed to all the multitude there present, that the earth would certainly haue rent in sunder; and spake that all the people plainly heard and vnderstood his wordes, which were these: Woe, woe, woe to the wicked; this is the time that wee haue long attended and looked for: Wherefore (yee people) looke to it, and beware lest the great day of the Lord come vpon you suddainly, and fall vpon you vnprouided; for the time of his comming is neerer then you thinke.

After the vttering of these wordes, the three dead Bodyes vanished and the Graues were shut againe, the Heauens became cleere, the Tempest

ceased, and all the people being released of their present horror and feare, reioyced, and assembling themselues together, gaue glory, and laude, and praise vnto the Lord, for his Fatherly mercy and vnspeakeable goodnesse, in the mittigation of his furie, and withdrawing his heauy hand for the present. And thereupon appointed a sett day of Supplications, Prayers, and fasting, with true and vnfained Repentance to be proclaimed, and obserued.

The Lords and Burgimasters of the Citty, haue themselues Written and testified these Wonderfull signes and tokens, subscribing it with their owne handes, for confirmation of that truth which they, and the whole Citty saw and heard; and sent coppies thereof to all the adioyning Townes, as Wesell, Dinslaken, Hessen, and the rest, to make the Lords Wonderous Workes knowne vnto all for their amendment, and speedy returne

to

to the Lord for mercy: Who is (as hee speaketh by his Prophet) slowe to anger, but infinite in goodnesse and truth, neither kæpeth hee his anger for euer.

Wherefore let vs take this to hart, and beware least any of vs make a mocke of Gods gentle and gracious forewarnings: Neither let vs thinke that this appertaineth nothing to vs: For assuredly as it befell to this Citty, so shall it befall to vs, to day here, to morrow ours: these signes of forewarnings neuer comming in vaine from the Lord, but his plagues follow shortly after.

As is at this day to be seene in the Cittyes and Townes before nauied, which are visited with strange pestilence and suddaine death, so strange and fearefull as the like hath neuer beene seene nor heard of. For the people dye going through the streetes, eating at their Tables with bread in

their

their mouthes : Those that went to bed chærefully and well ouer night, are found dead in the morning, &c.

Are not these the iust plagues and punishmentes of the Lord ? Or doe they nothing pertaine vnto vs, because they are distant from vs in place, so as we see them not, or as yet feele them not ?

Shall wee (as the manner of most men is now a dayes, being fast on sleepe in security and wilfull incredulity) shall wee (I say) still continue deafe and vnbelieuing ? Doe we not plainly see that our God vseth in loue to fore-warne vs ? Hath hee not done so from the beginning, warning his people in all ages by his Prophets, to turne from their sinnes ? Haue not all those prophesies beene fulfilled ? Nay, doe wee not dayly see them come to passe ? And that we are to expect nothing so sure as the day of Iudgement ? Oh, let vs watch and pray, that

that We be not found sleeping When the Lord commeth. But With the Wise Virgins in the Gospell, let vs kindle our Lampes that We may be found ready When our Bride-groome commeth With great Glory in the cloudes to giue to euery one according as his Workes shall be. Our good, faithfull, and true God, giue vs grace not to despise such mercifull forewarnings as he sendeth vs for our good, through Jesus Christ our Sauiour.

Amen.

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The Bookes Apologie.

IF this Relation, or any thing herein comprized, shall seeme to any man incredible; either for the strangenesse of these Reports before specified, or for that it hath often fallen out that the like heretofore haue beene found fabulous, or for distance of place farre remote from vs: Let him not rashly censure this Booke, for that were to shew a præiudicate opinion against all truth in this kinde; but rather in Christian vprightnes, let him rest a while vpon consideration of these reasons following. First wee are to acknowledge that the Lord, notwithstanding that Miracles are ceased in many former Ages, yet hee is neuer li-

mitted within any time, but will and often doth, at his good pleasure, send Prodigies and Wonders in euery Age, to fore-warne and fore-arme men of his Iudgementes imminent on their heades, for sinne; as appeareth in all Historyes and euen in our owne moderne experience. Then further, who will not confesse it to be iust with God, to augment the punishment of such as being warned, are yet so farre off from amendment and reformation, that they will not so much as take notice of such gentle and Fatherly threatninges as the Lord in mercy sendeth? And yet such is the ordinarie wilfulnesse and prepostorous custome of our times, that at the first hearing of any such report as this, or at the first sight of a booke of this nature, euery one almost is ready to make a tush at it, before hee vnderstand either the probabilitie, or the credible testimony, or the authority by which it is published.

But this is one helpe, that they who in their places and charges are bound to iterate and redouble such admonitions in the eares of the people for their recouery out of security, wil not with the rest disparage the truth of such profitable relations as this, whereby wee may behold in the case of other men, as in a glasse, our owne estate wherein wee stand

ſtand ſubiect to the wrath of God as much, if not more, then any other Nation, both for our greater offences, and eſpecially for contempt of his iudgements; the ſumme and combination of all ſinnes. It were rather to bee wiſhed that ſuch occaſions were taken and vſed to ſuch effect as is meete to reduce the ſtraying ſinner, to terrifie the obſtinate, to rouze vp the ſleepy worldling, and to deterre euery one from his beloued and faſt cleauing ſinne: Then which what can bee more profitable, either to whole congregations, companies, families, or to priuate perſons? This preſent report as it is confirmed by ſufficient teſtimony, and aboue other bookes of like ſubiect publiſhed by authority: ſo it hath alſo this priuiledge, euen to cauſe euery one that readeth it, if his hart be not too dãgerouſly hardned, to relent at the fearefull menaces, hydeous ſhapes and voyces, and haſty euents alſo, as it were following at the heeles of thoſe predictions, in ſuch ſuddaine death and almoſt vniuerſall mortalities. If theſe things moone vs not vntill wee feele or ſee them, let vs aſſure our ſelues the all-ſeeing eye will ſearch it out: but yet the publiſher of them hath done his part, in hope to doe good to ſome that are capable of remorſe, or not infected with the ſpirit of proude diſdaine and contradiction. For to ſuch as are ſo it may be

repeated which the ſpirit of truth hath long ſithence regiſtred concerning ſuch perſons. *He that is filthy, let him be filthy ſtill.* Meaning thereby that they refuſe all helpe offered of reformation and diſdaine all meanes of recouery. From which deſperate and irrecouerable eſtate the Lord of all mercy recall thoſe that be long to him,

Amen.

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2 AP 56